

In that regard, Applicants also wish to thank the Examiner for phone conversation of early May regarding Applicants' position with respect to the patentability of the current claims over the prior art, and the issues raised in the Final Office Action. During the phone conversation, the Examiner agreed that claims 1, 16, 22, 24 and 37 are allowable in their present form, since the Final Action mischaracterized reference numerals 44, 48 and 22 as disclosing a "conduit". As agreed during the phone conversation, these reference numerals represent a communication line, for sending and/or receiving signals between associated elements of the system (e.g., mechanical linkage, wired or wireless linkage).

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that the issues raised in the outstanding Final Office Action have all been addressed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

It is believed that no fees are due in connection with filing this Response. In the event that it is determined that fees are due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0311.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 935-3000. All correspondence should be directed to our New York office address given below.

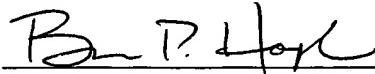
Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE



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